



Beach Front Property May be Coming to Potrero Hill Residents

By R.A. Kay
Special to the Neighborhood
Newswire April 20, 2006

Janet Carpinelli lives about three blocks from the waterfront in Potrero Hill's Dogpatch neighborhood. There's an old speedboat in her backyard that doubles as a planter, which, she sometimes jokes, she'd use if the sea ever rises and overflows onto the city streets.

But that humorous scenario may not be so far fetched. If predictions by many scientists hold true, the seas will rise in coming years and inundate low lying areas across the globe - including Dogpatch.

New elevation and mapping data show San Francisco's waterfront could be under water by the end of the century. Many climatologists attribute emetging sea level rises to global warming, which scientists believe is caused by massive amounts of greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, cars, and other fossil fuel-burning human activity.

Studies by the non-profit Pacific Institute of Oakland indicate that a sea level rise of as little as one meter could devastate much of the coastal land around San Francisco Bay, adversely affecting Alameda, Marin, Napa, Santa Clara, and San Francisco counties.

The Dogpatch and Mission Bay neighborhoods would be among the hardest hit. Mission Bay and much of the central shoreline was once under water. The



Janet Carpinelli set her boat in her garden many years ago, not knowing it may be necessary transportation in the future. Photo by Joe Boss.

area was filled-in during San Francisco's early days, and, if climate change evolves as currently expected, analysts say it could very well return to its aquatic roots.

And a one-meter rise may be a conservative estimate of what's to come. A recent study by university and government researchers, published in the journal Science in March, predicts a far more alarming possibility: seas could rise up to 20 feet by the end of the century. A sea level increase of that magnitude would be

a huge jump compared with the historical average of about four to five inches every 100 years across the globe.

A 20-foot rise would devastate coastal development worldwide. Dogpatch, and some of the adjacent neighborhood's most treasured new developments -- including the Giants' ballpark and UCSF's new campus -- would be inundated. Mission

Continued on page 14

100 Residents Introduce Ourselves to Downtown High

by Sally Taylor

Don't let anybody tell you getting to know your neighbots isn't worth it.

The northwest corner of the Hill (which we call "the good side") just had out biggest gatheting in recent memory. It was probahly the biggest since the days when everyone in the immediate area was Slovenian.

The meeting, at 7 pm on April 24 at the International Studies Academy (ISA) on Vermont and 18th Streets, introduced us to the new resident coming in September: Downtown (Continuation) High School. (ISA is moving a few blocks away.)

Few of us can wax enthusiastic about high school students of any variety these days, especially when they congregate in out own backyards. Littering, loitering, tagging and smoking are at the top of the longer list. Then it gets worse: knives, guns, drugs...well, you know.

Worry about this new student hody and how they will impact our lives

brought most of us out. Over 100 turned up. We stayed for two hours, getting information and our questions answered from the school's Principal, Richard Maggi and his boss, Dr Frank Tom, Superintendent of High Schools at the Board of Education.

Though most of us arrived doubtful, if not hostile, about a second high school population in our residential neighborhood, the event ended with a big tound of applause for both of these men and their staff. Many plan to continue to work with this new school. We have numbers to call. Maggi proposes to include neighbors in his monthly morning staff meetings. There is even talk about incorporating the professional talents of willing residents into the school's unique vocational program.

As patt of the major facilities teshuffle announced earlier this yeat, the S.F. Unified School District is moving ISA, a comprehensive high school, to the Enola D. Maxwell Middle School. Downtown (Continuation School currently at Mission and 22nd Streets) will move into

Spring Showers Wash Away Paychecks

By Allyse Heartwell
Special to the Neighborhood
Newswire April 17, 2006

Non-stop March and April showers washed away more than hillsides and San Franciscans' normally sunny dispositions. For many business owners and workers the record rains resulted in lower revenues and lost paychecks.

Ismael Morales, who sells jewelry at the Powell and Market Street Cable Car turn-around, huddled under a makeshift plastic shelter in mid-April and watched the rain-bundled people hurry by. The constant wet has drained away half his business. While Morales sells mostly to tourists and is accustomed to lower winter sales, he usually makes it through the season through sales to locals. For the past couple of months, however, few are eager to pause long enough to peruse his table of bangle bracelets and dangly earrings. "I have two kids," Morales, who has run his business for 13 years, says. "Luckily my wife works too, so we work it out somehow."

Some people can't make do with plastic shelters. Darryl, who owns Let's Get Busy Contractors in the Bayview, says he's been having trouble getting busy lately. "What happens is you've got yourself a soft soil situation," he said. Soft, muddy soil means that crucial steps in a construction project have to be delayed. "And that slows down overall productivity," he said.

Landscapers and gardeners face

Continued on page 16

IN THIS ISSUE	
Candy Troubles	Page 2
Sustainable Eating	Page 10
Eat Local Month	Page 11
Annual Library Art Show	Page 14
Global Warming	Page 21

Continued on page 6

Seniors Deserve More Time, Not Bush Prescription Drug Tax

By Congresswoman
Nancy Pelosi



Over the past few months, Democrats have held nearly 200 town meetings across the country, hearing numerous stories from seniors and people with disabilities who have had difficulties navigating the confusing and complex Bush prescription drug program.

Here in San Francisco, I met with constituents at the Dorothy Day Community Center and

one issue became quite clear -- Congress must make common-sense reforms to fix the flaws of the current program so that seniors and people with disabilities are guaranteed a simple, affordable, and reliable prescription drug benefit.

The first step toward a real prescription drug benefit is to extend the May 15th deadline for seniors to enroll in a

prescription drug plan. Seniors who do not enroll by May 15th will be forced to pay the Bush prescription drug tax -- a 7 percent penalty that they will have to pay for the rest of their lives.

Since the Bush prescription drug program started at the beginning of the year, tens of thousands of Medicare beneficiaries across the country have been unable to get their needed prescriptions, have faced long delays, and have been over-charged. These problems could have been avoided if the Republicans had truly written legislation to help seniors and people with disabilities.

Unfortunately, the prescription drug bill is another example of how the Republican culture of corruption hurts everyday Americans. The Republican bill was written by and for big pharmaceutical companies, and now seniors are paying the price. American people can no longer afford President Bush and the Rubber Stamp Republican Congress.

In the coming months, Democrats will continue our efforts to fix the prescription drug program that is confusing, costly, and complex. Democrats are committed to ensuring that seniors and

people with disabilities have easy access to affordable prescription drugs. We are working to give Medicare the authority to negotiate lower prescription drug prices just as the

Veterans' Affairs Department does so effectively. Democrats are also fighting to allow beneficiaries and other Americans to obtain safe and cheaper prescription drugs from Canada.

Democrats will continue to offer a prescription for change, and fight for a simple, affordable, and reliable Medicare prescription drug benefit that puts seniors and people with disabilities first.

Congress must make common-sense reforms to fix the flaws of the current program so that seniors and people with disabilities are guaranteed a simple, affordable, and reliable prescription drug benefit.

Candy is Dandy, But Hold the Poison

By Daniel Porras

Special to the Neighborhood Newswire

Imagine sweet watermelon mixed with guajillo chili powder, or a sugary paste of tamarind, citrus, and milled pepper. These are some of the flavors of candy I collected recently in San Francisco's Mission District, and had spread before me on a table at the Atlas Cafe. Despite reports that some candies imported from Mexico were contaminated with lead, I had to try them. After sucking on a 10-cent mango and chili lollipop, which made me salivate and cough slightly, my cell phone rang. It was my friend, Rozy.

"What are you doing?"

"Sampling lead-tainted candy in the Mission," I told her.

"What?"

When I set out recently to find Mexican-made candy that is known to contain dangerous levels of lead, I didn't think it would be so easy. But a 20 minute walk down 24th Street yielded six candies that have tested high for lead many times, including Super Lucas, a chili-sugar mix that the California Department of Public Health tested at 0.93 parts per million (ppm), almost twice the regulated limit of lead in candy of 0.5 ppm. In one Latino market I visited, little plastic bottles of Super Lucas were right at the check-out counter - two for a dollar.

"Can't they regulate that stuff?"

My friend Rozy asked me.

It's not that easy.

For one thing, the lead levels in Mexican candy are inconsistent. One batch of candy may test high while another batch of the same candy tests low. This is the case with Pelon Pelo Rico, the sugary tamarind and pepper paste that sickened two-year-old Diana Lopez in Southern California, as reported by the Orange County Register, which conducted a two-year, six-part investigation of the Mexican candy business. While health investigators in Los Angeles attributed little Diana's lead poisoning to Pelon Pelo Rico -- her favorite treat -- a list of tested candies sent to me by the CDPH shows the same candy testing low for lead ten times.

"You buy one candy in one place and it may be okay, but the next one will not be okay," said Leticia Medina of the Childhood Lead Prevention Program at San Francisco's Department of Public Health. Health officials consider Mexican chili and tamarind to be major sources of lead in imported candy. Chili and fruit are often dried outside -- sometimes near factories or freeways in Mexico, where leaded fuel is still voraciously consumed and emitted into the air. Then there's the issue of lead-based ink in wrappers that can contaminate candy, and lead-based glazes in some pottery used in candy-making.

The problem of imported candy tainted with lead -- at inconsistent levels and from hard-to-pinpoint sources -- does not fit neatly into the regulatory framework of any one governmental department or agency. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration could step in and require

labels, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency might have jurisdiction, or the World Trade Organization could consider it a trade issue. As a result of the international nature of the problem, and the dispersion of the candies once they reach the United States, potential risks currently fall between the bureaucratic cracks.

Mexican candy makers and bureaucrats, when approached by U.S. health inspectors and journalists, say there is nothing they can do. Much of the tainted candy is made by hundreds of tiny, unregistered makers in Mexico, and is often brought into the country through less-than-mainstream distribution channels.

Furthermore, it's difficult to implicate candy in lead-poisoning cases of Latino children who, according to Medina, have higher levels of lead in their blood than any other California population group. Latinos often live in industrial areas in older housing where there is more likely to be lead-tainted soils and paints. Nevertheless, said Medina, out of a thousand cases of child lead poisoning in San Francisco County, 150 of them are attributed to imported candy. Though the problem has caused a stir in California for more than a decade, she added, parents still buy the sweet, potential poison off the shelves. And kids love it.

Sitting in a Mission café with my red, yellow, and white rocket-shaped tube of Pelon Pelo Rico, I was like a big kid. I knew the stuff could be bad for me, but I couldn't stop licking the spicy sugar paste that oozed from the top when I pressed on the bottom.

To find out how many kids are eating the suspect candies, Medina and her colleagues at the Department of Public Health conducted a survey recently of 300 parents and teachers in the Mission District. The results were "pretty awful," she said, with an estimated 90 percent of Latino school children in the area eating the candy two or three times a week. The best way to change this, according to public health specialists like Medina, is public information, and collaboration.

"Things are finally starting to happen," Medina said. The FDA and the Department of Health Services are starting to act, she said, thanks in large part to the extensive investigation by the Orange County Register, which sent reporters as far as the chili fields of Mexico. San Francisco's Childhood Lead Prevention Program recently launched an awareness program in the Mission, consisting of bi-lingual posters -- made by the OC Register -- that warn of the possible dangers of particular candy. The posters -- which contain information about lead poisoning and show color illustrations of certain candies -- will be hung at schools and stores in Latino communities around the Bay Area.

<http://www.dph.sf.ca.us/cehp/lead/lead.htm>

www.ocregister.com/investigations/lead/

<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/fdb/>



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DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS

"APRIL IS VOTER EDUCATION MONTH"

In a resolution introduced yesterday by President Aaron Peskin, the Board of Supervisors voted to designate April as "Voter Education and Participation Month."

Entitled "Resolution Declaring April 2006 'Voter Education and Participation Month'", this resolution supports a partnership between local election officials and the Secretary of State Bruce McPhearson to encourage all eligible citizens to register and vote. The Board of Supervisors, by adopting this resolution, indicates their awareness of the importance of the Department's Voter Outreach and Education Division and its programs that provide educational opportunities for San Francisco residents. These programs are important as they provide a way for voters to gather important nonpartisan information about the election process, such as how and when to register to vote, ranked-choice voting, multilingual services, and locating their polling place.

One of the most critical changes in federal and state law this election season has been about the new regulations with respect to voter registration and identification requirements. With this change, the following information is important to San Francisco's first-time voters:

• **ID REQUIRED WHEN REGISTERING:** State and federal law require identification when registering to vote. Every person wishing to register to vote must provide his or her California driv-

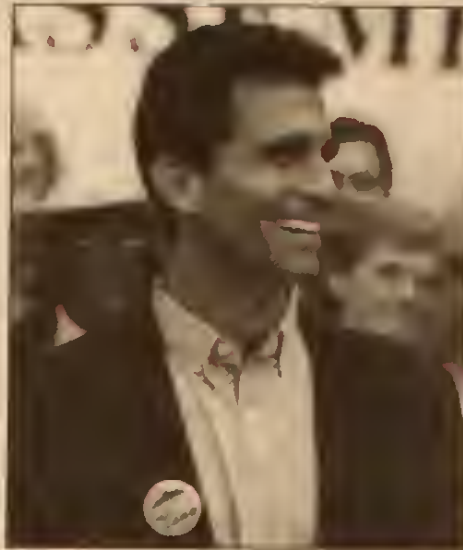
ers license or state identification number on their voter registration form. If no driver's license or state ID number has been issued, the registrant must provide the last four digits of their social security number.

• **REGISTERING TO VOTE:** May 22nd is the last day to register to vote for the June 6th Consolidated Primary Election. To ensure that voters receive their sample ballot and other materials, it is recommended that they register to vote early. Registering to vote is simple and convenient. Registration forms can be found on the Secretary of State's website at www.ss.ca.gov, at the Department of Elections in City Hall or by calling (415) 554-4375 and ask that a form be mailed.

It has been a busy month for the Outreach Team with 75 presentations and tabling events scheduled so far. In only 2 _ short weeks, they've already conducted 45 presentations to over 2,000 residents, registered nearly 400 new voters, collected applications for new pollworkers, assisted voters signing up for multilingual voter services and becoming permanent absentee voters. The Team expects this success to continue with 58 events scheduled so far in May.

For further information on the Outreach Division's activities, please visit the Department's website: www.sfgov.org/election or call (415) 554-7285.

A Call For Citizen Service



by Mark Leno
Assemblyman, 13th District

Greetings Neighbors!

Citizen service is the very American idea that we meet our challenges not as isolated individuals but as members of a true community, with all of us working together. Our mission is nothing less than to spark a renewed sense of obligation, a new sense of duty, a new season of service... — President Bill Clinton

One of the many reasons I am so proud to be a San Franciscan is our long history of

volunteerism to help others in our community. In fact, our City's namesake, St. Francis of Assisi, was the patron saint of charity and compassion. We honor this legacy every time we devote our time and attention to worthy causes that benefit society as a whole. I would like to remind you of some of the many ways you can get involved with volunteer work in our community.

Whether it be helping keep our City parks clean and maintained; reading or running errands for the elderly, blind, or people with disabilities; restocking library shelves; coaching kids in sports and other after-school activities; or working with animals at the City Zoo, every effort counts.

Volunteering allows you to put your skills and talents to good use and develop new ones as well.

The Volunteer Center is an organization that can match you up with volunteer opportunities that interest you, and has been serving San Francisco and San Mateo Counties for over 60 years. The Center offers a program that matches an individual's volunteer interests and over 1,500 local nonprofits' needs for assistance. Whether you're looking to help in a soup kitchen or want to assist in an office, the Volunteer Center can help you find the perfect opportunity with a local non-profit organization. Also, if your company needs volunteer help, you can work with the Volunteer Center to find volunteers who can assist you. You can reach them through their website at

www.thevolunteercenter.net or by calling (415) 982-8999.

In addition, the California Service Corps, whose slogan is "Californians are Proud to Bear Responsibility for our State," provides a similar matching program for volunteer needs throughout the State. It also has resource guides for young children and teens who wish to get more involved in their community. You can learn more about these programs by visiting their website <http://www.csc.ca.gov> or by calling toll-free 1-888-567-SERV.

One organization that utilizes volunteers to improve the lives of young people is San Francisco Court Appointed Special Advocates (SFCASA). As the keynote speaker of their annual luncheon last month, I was awed by the commitment of individuals from throughout the community who come to the aid of our City's 2,300 foster youth. SFCASA finds advocates for them who are struggling through the Juvenile Dependency Court system and trains them to support our young people through the process. As Chair of the Assembly Public Safety Committee, I know that

these types of volunteer service programs are essential to stronger communities and juvenile justice. You can learn more about the extraordinary work of SFCASA through their website <http://www.sfcasa.org/>

or by calling them at (415) 398-8001.

There are a vast array of worthy causes to support, and a lot of important work that needs to be done in our community. One cause that is near and dear to my heart is making sure foster youth are cared for and supported, so that they can grow to be responsible, productive adults. That's why I am authoring two pieces of legislation in the California State Legislature to help foster youth achieve these goals. AB 2489 will provide foster youth with the academic preparation, financial assistance and the campus-based support they need to complete their college education. AB 2488 will develop a process to reconnect siblings who have been separated by adoption. Both of these measures are aimed at providing young people the support they need to succeed in life.

Booker T. Washington once said that "If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else." He knew that when you give, you also receive. I am truly inspired by the dedication and compassion of the thousands of volunteers in our great City. If you haven't already, I encourage you to join the talented and dedicated groups of people who are truly making a difference, one person at a time.

To contact Assemblyman Mark Leno's San Francisco District Office call (415) 557-3013 or e-mail him directly at Assemblymember.Leno@asm.ca.gov.



What's Up at The Nabe?

Join our Tai Chi class

Mondays 10-11 a.m.

The gentle movements of Tai Chi convey the essence of peace and relaxation to the modern world

Yoga for Beginners

Thursdays 6-7:30 p.m.

Explore you mind, body, & spirit connection while developing strength, flexibility, proper alignment and balance.

On-going Meetings

Alcoholics Anonymous: Mondays & Fridays at 8 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous: Wednesdays at 7:30

Facilities

Rental space for theatrical productions, receptions, workshops, meetings

Community bulletin board for employment and event listings

Gymnasium and recreational space

Potrero Hill Neighborhood House

953 De Haro Street / San Francisco, CA 94107

415 / 826-8080

Edward Hatter, Executive Director

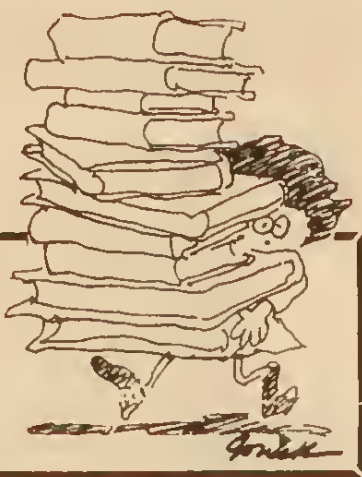
The Potrero Hill Neighborhood House is a non-profit agency serving those most in need, with an emphasis on youth and education.

The Nabe is wheelchair accessible.

All services and activities are free.

LIBRARY NEWS
POTRERO BRANCH
1616 20th St. / 355-2822

Closed Sunday and Monday
Tuesday: 10 am - 8 pm
Wednesday: 12 noon - 8 pm
Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm
Friday: 1 pm - 6 pm
Saturday: 1 pm - 6 pm



**A NEIGHBORHOOD
CELEBRATION**

The 51st Annual Potrero Hill Artists' Exhibition was on display last month at the Potrero Branch Library and was well-received by folks who stopped in to view the artwork. This year, artwork was submitted by eight-one artists who live, work, or study on Potrero Hill. A show like this would not have been possible without the help and support of many. A hearty "Thank you!" to all who worked to make this year's exhibition and opening reception a memorable one:

DONORS:

- David Caldwell
- Friends of San Francisco Public Library
- Goat Hill Pizza
- Klein's Delicatessen
- The Potrero View
- Potrero Women's Club

CATERER:

- Klein's Delicatessen

LIVE MUSIC:

- Apollo Jazz Group

**POTRERO HILL ART SHOW
PLANNING COMMITTEE:**

- Sally Goodwin
- Marion Norbetg
- Ruth Passen
- Bernice Wong
- Jensa Woo

**WITH ADDITIONAL HELP
FROM VOLUNTEERS:**

- David Caldwell
- Brooke Deterline
- Raya Foreman
- Aliseo Purpura-Pontonier
- Deborah Reed
- Michelle Stevens
- Susan Tuttle

**SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC
LIBRARY STAFF:**

- Chief of Branches division
- Operations and Maintenance
- Public Affairs
- Potrero Branch Library:
- Art Arrieta, Lois Chan, Lisa Franks, Lia Hillman, Amelia Martin, Steve Patapoff, Jensa Woo

**UPDATE ON ART FOR THE
RENOVATED LIBRARY**

This is a follow-up to news in the March issue of The View. The Potrero Branch Community Artist Selection Panel had its final meeting on April 14 and narrowed the list of four semifinalists down to one. Artist Gina Telocci was the panel's top choice and, pending review and final approval by the San Francisco Arts Commission, will create artwork for our renovated library. Many thanks to those of you who stopped by the library during the review process in March to respond in writing to the semifinalists' presentation boards. Please say tuned to this column for updates on next steps in this process. For further information about the new Potrero Branch artwork process, call Judy Moran, Arts Commission Public Art Project Manager, at 415/252-2586.

**AND SPEAKING OF
RENOVATION...**

If you haven't already seen the current design for the renovated branch, stop by the library today. You can also check the library's website at <http://sfpl.org/news/blip/potrerosurvey.htm> to view the design. For further information about the Branch Library Improvement Program, please call 557-4354.

**CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS IN
MAY**

Come for an engaging afternoon of lively music: "Amy and Karen Play Fiddle, Banjo & Guitar: Tunes & Songs from Turn-of-the-Century Appalachia" on Saturday, May 6 at 4:00 p.m. For children of all ages. This program is funded by the Friends of the Library.

Here's the lineup for our regular weekly and monthly programs:
Evening storytime on Tuesday, May 2, 16 and 23 at 7:00 p.m. For ages 3 through 7.

Infant/toddler lapsit, featuring stories, songs, and rhymes on Thursdays, May 4, 11 and 18 at 10:30 a.m. For children newborn through age 3.

Evening films on Tuesday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m.: "Owen", "The Remarkable Riderless Runaway Tricycle" and "Dance Squared". For ages 3 and older.

NOTE: for programs listed above, the programming room is not accessible by elevator. Also, please contact library staff in advance for group reservations.

Jensa Woo
Potrero Branch Library Manager

**Call for Entries –
Photography
“Hill Community”**

Theme

The theme is "Hill Community –Photography reflecting the unique community, in and around Potrero Hill".

Potrero Hill, also known as "Goat Hill" due to its pastoral past, offers great vistas in several directions from the top of the hill, as well as urban and industrial settings on and at the base of the hill. Past and present, "The Hill" has embodied a diverse and creative community and has maintained a strong sense of community through times of tremendous change.

Our call seeks to answer the following questions: "How is community created? What continues to make this a special place to live, work, go to school, have a business, make art? Who/what are the icons of our community? How have changes over the years affected our community for better or worse?" We ask photographers to think outside any usual "boxes" they may have placed around the idea of "community" and approach this theme with the unique spirit that is reflective of Potrero Hill. Of course, nocturnal photography is always welcome, but it is not the focus of this call for entries.

We will hang the show in July 2006 at Farley's Café on 18th Street on Potrero Hill. This café has quite a bit of hanging space and is always showing some great art on the walls. Farley's is a true San Francisco institution and a vibrant part of the Potrero Hill community, as well as a meeting place for writers and artists of all types. Farley's motto is "Community in a cup" and its many contributions to our community was the initial inspiration for this theme.

Medium/presentation
This show is open to all photography, including digital. The piece will have to be framed or otherwise ready to hang and not exceed 20x20.

Selection

- Selection will be made by
- Tim Baskerville of the Nocturnes (www.thenocturnes.com)
- Adam Moore, an accomplished photographer and instructor of photography who lives on the Hill, (www.adammooore.com)

- Roger Hillyard, Farley's owner (www.farleyscafe.com)
- Greta & Manu Schnetzler, long-time Hill residents and photographers (www.schnetzler.com)

Dates

- June 14, 2006 Deadline for emailing photos
- June 20, 2006 Artists will be informed of acceptance
- July 1, 2006 Selected pieces to be delivered
- Early July 2006 Opening reception at Farley's

Submissions

All photographers are invited to participate. It is not necessary to have a Potrero Hill address or connection. Come discover the joy of photographing our neighborhood and experiencing our welcoming community (then drop by Farley's to watm up with a coffee and see some other great art).

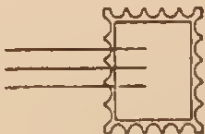
Submit up to 3 digital images by email. Each image should be no more than 600x600 pixels and 200KB in jpeg format. Send the digital files to manu@schnetzler.com with the following information:

- Name
- Address
- Phone number
- Email
- For each submitted image:
- Title
- Medium (digital print, silver gelatin, ...)
- Print size
- Frame size
- Price or NFS (all sales to be arranged directly with the artists - no commissions taken by the venue or organizers)

Contact

For more information, visit www.schnetzler.com or email Manu Schnetzler at monu@schnetzler.com.

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Businesses and Residents Rally to Shape Potrero Hill Development

By Alison Fromme
Special to the Neighborhood
Newswire

New development in San Francisco is changing the shape of neighborhoods, and many residents and business owners are wondering how much influence they'll have over the decision-making process.

More than 1,000 development projects are currently pending in the City, about half of which have already been approved by the Planning Department. These projects represent in excess of 27,000 new housing units and 6.5 million square feet of non-residential development. Typical of the mix is ongoing construction of 165 housing units and 40,000 square feet of retail space at 450 Rhode Island Street, formerly occupied by S&C Food. The project includes a Whole Foods Market and 323 off-street parking spaces.

The Planning Department has identified Potrero Hill and Showplace Square as "hotspots" for development, ranking the area fourth among all San Francisco neighborhoods in total number of proposed projects. The Hill ranks third in the City for residential building, with 2,385 housing units currently under review. Only the Rincon Hill (3,600 units) and Mid-Market/ Civic Center (2,400 units) areas surpass the Hill in total number of potential new housing units.

With so much development activity, residents and businesses are eager to voice their opinions. Neighborhood organizations provide an opportunity for concerned citizens to influence City land use decisions.

The Potrero Hill Association of Merchants and Businesses is one such group. "We'd like to have a say over zoning in the area and attract other community organizations to help us come up with a unified front," said Keith Goldstein, PHAMB president and owner of Everest Waterproofing & Restoration, Inc.

The group is particularly concerned about development that could lead to "formula retail," such as chain stores or generic plazas, which would be inconsistent with the Hill's character. PHAMB would also like to maintain light industrial businesses on 16th, 17th, and Mariposa Streets, and avoid the type of high density housing and formula retail that cropped up on King Street near SBC Park.

Organizing with other groups is key, according to Goldstein. PHAMB is already coordinating with the Potrero

Boosters and Dogpatch Neighborhood Associations. These organizations are especially concerned about quality of life issues, complementing PHAMB's primarily business-oriented goals.

Community groups are typically led by volunteers, who may not have much experience with the public policy process. "We're all volunteers, trying to live our lives and run our businesses," said Goldstein. But community groups and unified neighborhood input into the planning process can have a much bigger impact than individual voices. Some groups also have the added benefit of years of experience -- the Potrero Boosters has been organizing residents since 1926.

Developers have a substantial advantage in navigating the City's planning process. It's their business, and they have a strong economic interest in achieving their goals, according to Phil DeAndrade, owner of Goat Hill Pizza. "It's the responsibility of the City to do open planning and involve all the stakeholders," he said.

The Planning Department solicits community input about development decisions through public hearings and workshops. In March, roughly 80 people attended a Planning Department workshop at the California College of Art. The Department presented proposals to change zoning requirements on blocks north of 17th Street to Bryant and 7th from "industrial" to "mixed use," including design, showroom, arts and technology districts, with more open space and some height limits increased from 50 to 65 feet. According to Planner Johnny Jaramillo, the Department will sponsor another workshop "...as soon as we get the needs analysis for the area as well as some other work that our consultants are working on. We expect the next workshop will occur in late summer/early fall."

Other City agencies also solicit community input on neighborhood issues. The San Francisco Department of Public Health gathers feedback through meetings of the Eastern Neighborhoods Community Health Impact Assessment, a project that analyzes the effects of rezoning on community health. The Department's recommendations, expected to be issued by summer, will be presented to the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Department, who will use them as they see fit.

Supervisor Sophie Maxwell created the Back Streets Business Advisory Board in 2004 to find ways to retain the City's diverse businesses, such as Anchor Steam Brewery on Potrero Hill. In a press

release, Maxwell stated, "These [Back Street] businesses represent a critical sector in our local economy. They also provide employment opportunities for residents of all educational and skill levels. We cannot afford to lose these businesses."

The Board consists of 14 representatives from the community, government, and industry, such as People Organizing to Demand Environmental and Economic Rights (PODER) activist Oscar Grande, City planner Jasper Rubin, and Mark Klaiman, owner of the Bayview business Pet Camp. The Board is developing recommendations on ways to retain and expand working class businesses, including potentially through restricting land uses through zoning. The Board will present their formal recommendations to the Board of Supervisors by the end of this year.

The Board is asked periodically to weigh-in on other land use issues. Accord-

ing to Klaiman, the City recently tried to define industrial businesses by what they aren't instead of what they are, potentially making the category meaningless. The Board advocated for a more clear definition of which businesses should be considered as industrial.

For more information please see:
Potrero Boosters <http://www.potreroboosters.org/>

Potrero Hill Association of Merchants and Businesses <http://www.potrerohill.biz/>

The Back Streets Business Advisory Board http://www.sfgov.org/sire/bsbab_index.asp

The San Francisco Planning Department http://www.sfgov.org/site/planning_index.asp

Eastern Neighborhoods Community Health Impact Assessment
<http://www.dph.sf.ca.us/phes/EN-CHIA.htm>



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Downtown High

Continued from page 1

learned how hard it is to get a decent job without credentials.

"They are all at Downtown High School because they want to be there. They want to get that diploma." Richard Maggi promised his new neighbors. "And we are here because we believe they deserve a second chance." Six of the 20 teachers and staff of Downtown were also at the meeting and spoke openly with

residents afterwards.

The school day is shorter at Downtown. Students arrive at 8:45 a.m., and they get out at 2 p.m. (Many of them also work part time.) The students stay with the same two teachers all day. The curriculum is project based and each student produces a product at each quarter's end. An "open" campus, the student population at Downtown fluctuates throughout

the year and there is currently a waiting list to get in.

Maggi passed out statistics on student achievement at Downtown High over the last three years. While SAT scores were low (374 Verbal, 344 Math) and those earning CST proficiency were less than 10% in all grades, 37% of 11th graders passed their Exit Exams.

Currently all students and staff wear school IDs. Two security guards are on duty and administrators also monitor students going to and from the school. Smoking is not allowed within sight of the school. There are many outreach programs in the Mission that include these students, including neighborhood clean-up projects, which certainly struck a chord. Maggi will be working with our Bayview Police Station, as well.

Between the forthright presentations of both Maggi and Tom, most of us were heartened by what we heard about Downtown High's goals. In spite of our initial concerns, and the current irritations with ISA all but a handful left that meeting feeling that the neighborhood could actually improve when Downtown moves in.

The skeptics could prove us wrong, but we neighbors already have numbers to call for following up: Richard Maggi is at 695-5860. He welcomes questions and suggestions. So does Dr. Tom at 241-6478.

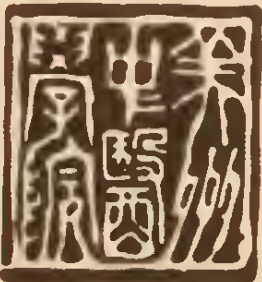
You can bet we will be working now with Downtown High for good neighbor-

hood relations. We heartily recommend the residents around the new ISA site to consider that similar participation really helps to know your neighbors.

(Sally Taylor is a journalist working for publications around the world. She joined the VIEW staff many years ago, and still participated when her busy schedule allows. She resides on Kansas Street not far from where the school will be situated.)

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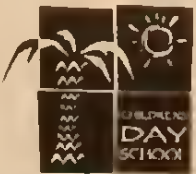
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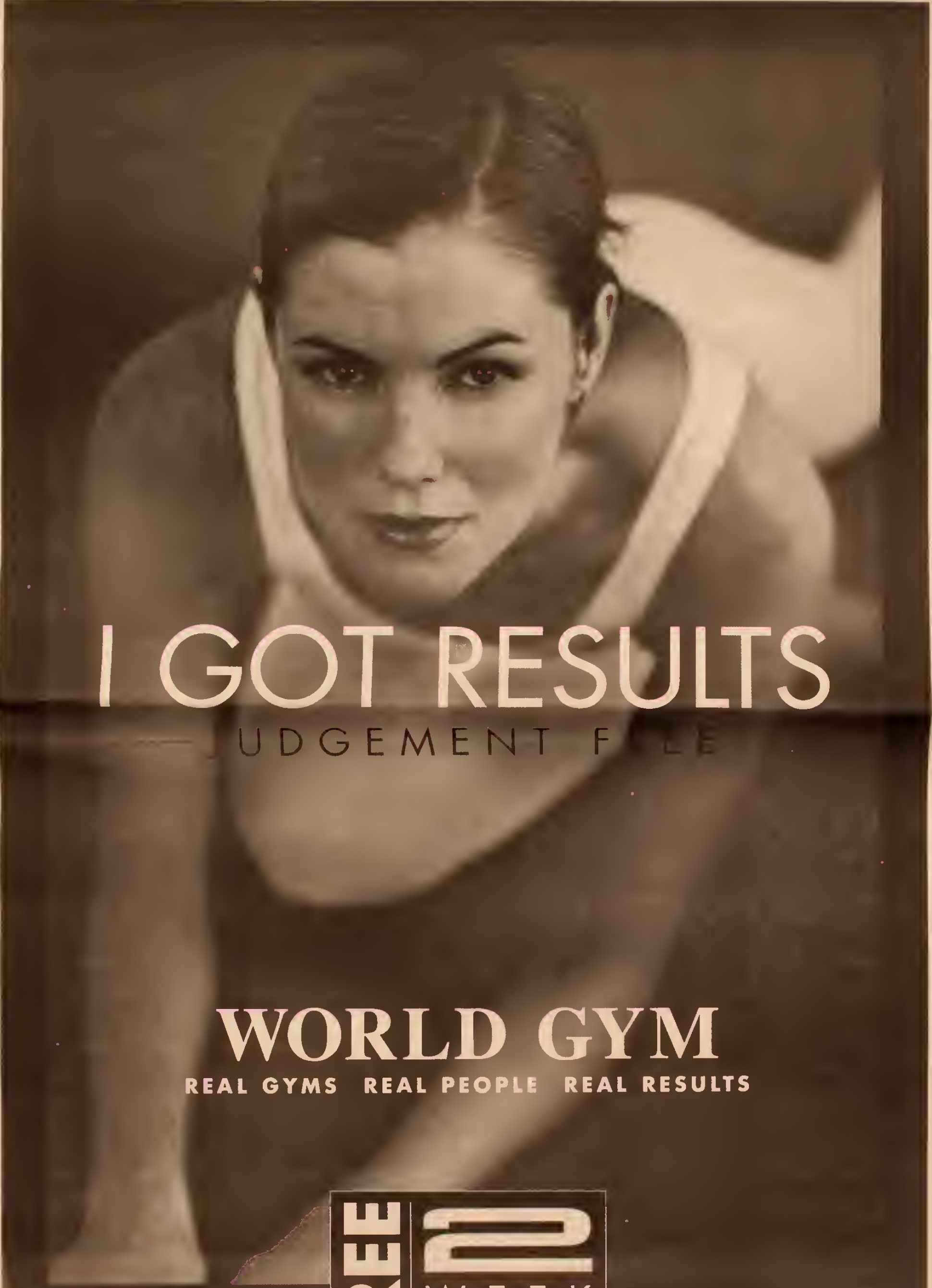


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IN MEMORIUM

James (Jim) Kershaw

I remember Jim with profound fondness. I thought of his presence there, at the beginning and the end of a theatrical evening, as constant and true as the North star.

I loved seeing him every evening, and our talking over books (he must have read thousands! I can hear his outrage, righteous and true.)

I think of all the people I loved and knew at ACT, and Jim was my favorite. His wisdom, his kindness, his presence in so many lives, will be missed. I will carry him in my memories always.

Deborah May

(This letter was sent to Jim's widow, Roberta Callahan, who asked that we reprint it)

May was a student at ACT in the 70's, and later joined the company. Today she lives in Los Angeles and works in theatre, film, and television.

Jim Kershaw had lived almost most of his life on Potrero Hill, and only moved away a short two years before his death. He had worked with theatre companies, and although he was never hired for his acting abilities, his heart belonged to the theatre and actors.

Diane Marie Zinkewich Kennedy

Diane Marie Zinkewich Kennedy died in March of lymphoma at the age 50. She was the loving wife of James Kennedy, and devoted mother of children Sophia and Jimmy.

The family lived in San Francisco until moving to Sonoma County in the late 1990s.

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New Listings !



880 Wisconsin @ 22nd Street
Price: \$749,000

This home on Potrero Hill was built in 1953. It has two bedrooms at the back, a large kitchen with a dining area, a living room with a wood-burning fireplace, and a full bath. It has a large garage with parking for one to two cars, and lots of extra room for storage and a laundry area with washer & dryer. There is a one bedroom cottage at the back of the lot and a level garden with mature plants and a lemon tree. Home with "good bones" that needs some TLC.



1129 Carolina @ 23rd Street
Price: \$689,000

Featured in "PAPER CITY", this extensively remodeled designer condo is one of the original farmhouses on Potrero Hill & has maintained the charm of its historic late 19th-century architecture. A picturesque garden/yard in the front leads to the home with a foyer, living room with wood-burning fireplace and large windows that allow for expansive views to Twin Peaks! Kitchen has a dining area, bedroom and full bath plus office space on main level. Stairs down lead to master bedroom and bath, with French doors that open to brick courtyard. WOW! ONE OF A KIND PROPERTY!

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Sustainable Eating

by Amy Day, ND

The term sustainable implies the ability to continue to do something, over time, in the same way, without feeling negative consequences. In agriculture, one example of this is the practice of crop rotation in order to avoid depleting the nutrients in the soil. Based on similar principles, I propose the concept of sustainable eating, in which we make decisions about the type of foods we eat by considering the source, the growing conditions, and the delivery method as well as the taste, nutritional value and cost.

Naturopathic doctors have an important role in educating our patients about food choices. While it may be apparent that we would teach about the nutrients necessary for one's health, it is also important to promote food choices that support the environment. We provide the best service when we advocate for the health of the planet as well as for the health of our patients. I see these factors as tightly intertwined—healthy people = a healthy planet.

The issues of protecting the environment and conserving energy sources have finally shifted from tree-huggers to world

wide attention.

Sustainable eating means choosing organic, local, whole foods.

Why Organic?

Organic farming is better for the environment, and organic food is better for people. By promoting natural ecosystems and avoiding the use of pesticides, organic farming leads to healthier soil and healthier food. Organic food is higher in nutrients and is much more flavorful. When people eat organic food, not only do they avoid putting toxic chemicals into their bodies, but they are also supporting farmers who are working hard to protect the environment.

Why Local?

Local food doesn't have to be shipped over long distances for weeks before being consumed. This means less fuel used in transportation, and we all know how important it is to reduce our dependence on oil. Because it will get to the consumer quickly, local produce can also be picked ripe, rather than picked green. This means

higher nutritional value and better taste. Also, eating foods that are in season locally keeps you in touch with natural growing cycles.

Why Whole?

Whole, unprocessed foods are those foods that still resemble the way nature made them. Once a food has been processed, refined, and "fortified" to add back nutrients lost in the process, packaged in plastic and cardboard, it barely resembles the original item.

Why CSAs and Farmer's Markets?

Two great ways to have a fresh supply of organic and locally-grown produce are to shop at farmer's markets or to join a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. Here in California, we are lucky to have so many wonderful farms nearby. At a farmer's market, you can choose foods from a variety of farms all in one place, and enjoy the gathering of your community. In a CSA, you prepay a membership fee equivalent to \$15-25 per week, and receive a box of produce every week, as well as a newsletter with recipes and information about the farm. See side bar for more details.

Eatwell CSA Coming Soon to the Nabe

SOMA Acupuncture & Natural Health Clinic is teaming up with the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House and Eatwell Farms to provide Potrero Hill residents with the convenience of a new pick-up site for organic, local vegetables and fruit. Once a week, Eatwell Farm's CSA will be delivering boxes of vegetables, fruits and fresh herbs to the Neighborhood House. In support of the health of our community, we want to help educate our neighbors and provide easy access to this wonderful food. Please see the sidebar for more details about Eatwell Farm and to learn how to sign up for a membership!

To find out more about Eatwell Farm's CSA: Call 800-648-9894.

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Visit www.eatwell.com.

Pick up a brochure at SOMA Acupuncture & Natural Health Clinic or the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House.

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May Is Eat Local Month

By Michele Hangee-Bauer

Are You Ready For the Challenge?

Every time we buy groceries, we make choices. Our choices are made for different reasons: nutritional, economical, environmental, ethical, political. Organic or non-organic? Processed or whole? Regular or low fat? Carbs or no carbs? And now, local or global.

Twenty-five years ago I gave up fast food and started eating organic whole foods. Next I gave up meat, but continued to eat fish and poultry. Then I gave up factory-farmed poultry and only ate free range. That diet continued into the 90's when I learned about the blood type diet. I'm blood type A, so the vegetarian diet with whole grains and a little fish or chicken is perfect for me. But my husband is blood type O—he should forego the grains, and some meat is good for him. So now our food choices include meat, but only if it's hormone-free, naturally raised, grass fed, etc. A low-carb diet is perfect for him; not so great for me.

Recently my awareness has been focused on the importance of eating locally grown foods. For me, the primary reason to do so is the issue of transportation and how it affects our consumption of oil—a precious resource that needs to be conserved. In the last

10 years, "food miles" have risen dramatically, are still rising, and have a significant impact on climate change, traffic congestion, accidents and pollution. Food transport accounts for 25% of all the miles driven by heavy goods vehicles on our roads. Air and water pollution cause a variety of other environmental issues including species extinctions, polluted groundwater, and depleted non-renewable energy resources.

Eat From Our Foodshed

It makes perfect sense to me to eat foods primarily grown in our foodshed—an area that consists of about 100 miles from San Francisco. At first, that didn't sound too hard. Here in California we are blessed with an abundance of farms and crops to choose from as well as an ocean to provide us with fresh seafood.

So off I went last week to Rainbow Grocery to see what local food I could fill my basket with. Two hours later I was surprised at how difficult it is. Much of the produce was organic, but it was grown in Mexico or Chile. Forget about breads and grains. They come from Oregon and Minnesota. Soy milk? Probably not local.

Beans? Haven't figured them out yet. Olive oil? Not all Napa Valley oil comes from olives grown here. Coffee? Well, if you travel to Hawaii, you can bring some local coffee home, but we definitely don't grow coffee in California. We do, however, have good sources of dairy products, seafood that's in season, meat, poultry and eggs.

There is a group of people called Locavores, and their web site is www.locavores.com. They are presenting the May challenge of eating locally, and their web site is both educational and helpful in locating sources of local food. Personally, I will take the challenge and see how well I do. Fortunately I'm already a member of Eatwell Farm, so I know that my produce is locally grown as well as organic and tasty.

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PERFORMING ARTS

by Rachel Huysentruyt

Circles Unbroken: Four Generations of African-American Quiltmakers

The Museum of Craft and Folk Art presents "Circles Unbroken," an exhibition of quilts by four women of one family whose quiltmaking stretches back two centuries. The exhibition features eighteen quilts from the collection of Eli Leon and chosen jointly with Museum staff.

Gladys Henry, Laverne Brackens, Sherry Byrd, and Bara Byrd represent four generations of a Texas quiltmaking family whose art traditions date to the time of slavery in America. This family's quilts are guided by receptivity to the materials at hand and to sensitivity to visual rhythms and designs that emerge in the making, quite contrary to conventional pattern-based quiltmaking.

The Museum of Craft and Folk Art and the Museum's Gallery Store are located at 51 Yerba Buena Lane, connecting Market and Mission between 3rd and 4th Streets, in downtown San Francisco. The Museum is open Tuesday through Fridays from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Admission to the Museum is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, and children under 18 are free. Museum members admitted free of charge. Admission to the Gallery Store is free.

"Circles Unbroken" is on view at the Museum of Craft and Folk Art from May 4-July 23, 2006.

Local Artists Pay Tribute to Black Dads

In honor of Father's Day 2006, 13 local visual artists will pay tribute to their fathers in the first annual "Black Artists' Expressions of Father" exhibit, on display May 6-June 29 in the African American Center at the Main Library.

"Black Artists' Expressions of Father" is intended to stimulate different ways of viewing and discussing black males, and black fatherhood in particular. Expressions on the theme encompass visual arts and media, including painting, ceramics, photography, wood sculpture, charcoal, gouache and mixed media.

Opening Reception and Artists' Talk on Sunday, May 7 from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. at the Main Library, 100 Larkin Street (at Grove Street), Lower Level, Latino/Hispanic Meeting Room. Father's Day Reception and Social June 18 from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. at the Main Library, Lower Level, Latino/Hispanic Meeting Room.

This exhibit and programs are free and open to the public. For more information call 415-557-4277.

Hunters Point Shipyard Artists Spring Open Studio

With 250 artists working in eight converted navy buildings, this large artist community features every kind of art imaginable in its twice annual public sale. The Spring Open studio includes 150 studios covering 40 acres, and creative offerings include paintings, sculpture, photography, prints, fiber art, wearable

art, quilts, ceramics, jewelry, new media and more.

Featured Potrero Hill artists include Carolyn Crampton, Christine Kendrick, and Jess McVey.

Saturday, May 6 and Sunday, May 7 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Hunters Point Shipyard, entrance located one mile south of the Evans and 3rd Streets intersection. For computer location, use the address 701 Innes Street, San Francisco, 94124. For more information and a printable versions of maps, directions, photos, food menus, and artist directory visit www.springopenstudio.com. Free Parking available, Information table in Building 101. For more information call 415-387-5936.

Theater

E63: Vertigo by the San Francisco Circus



Local performer, Colin Davis, jumps through hoop. Photo by Larry Rosenberg.

Project Artaud Theater announces a showcase of local circus talent, including new acts from the San Francisco School of Circus Arts and "E63: Vertigo," a new production by the acclaimed San Francisco Circus. Showcase 2006 features a first act directed by Helene Turcotte, director of the San Francisco School of Circus Arts, including performances from a variety of circus disciplines, including teeterboard, slack rope, chair balancing, devil stick and Diablo juggling, clowning, aerial silk, rope straps and trapeze. Showcase 2006's second act, "E63: Vertigo," features the pre-professional artists of the San Francisco Circus inhabiting a post-apocalyptic world that challenges their inventiveness and creativity. The show features Chinese poles, aerial hoop, acrobatics, hoop diving, table sliding, adagio, Spanish web and contortion by the famed Mystic Pixies.

Showcase 2006 premiers on Thursday, May 4 at 7:30 p.m. at Project Artaud Theater, 450 Florida Street. The run con-

cludes Sunday, May 14. Tickets are \$10-\$20 and are available at 415-759-8123. For complete show listings visit www.circuscenter.org.

Schönberg

What is it about opposites that attract? What in us is drawn to self-destruction, adventure, and eventual self-defeat? During Hollywood's Golden Era wisecracking Oscar Levant starts taking music lessons from legendary iconoclast composer Arnold Schönberg. "Schönberg" explores the relationship between these popular opposites, and the impact their story has on a contemporary gay man. John Fisher, two time winner of the Will Glickman Playwright Award, returns to the Rhino Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros with his first play in three years.

Written by John Fisher; featuring John Fisher, Stephanie Goldstein, Matthew Martin, Michael Vega, Maryssa Wanlass, and Matt Weimer.

This production replaces the previously scheduled production of John Fisher's "Ishi, Last of the Yahi."

"Schönberg" runs May 6 – May 20 at the Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th Street (between Mission and South Van Ness Streets) on Wednesdays-Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$15-\$25 and available at 415-861-5079 or on the Web at www.TheRhino.com.

"Landslide" World Premier

Contemporary dance company Company Chaddick presents its 21st Anniversary Home Season featuring the world premier of "Landslide," an evening-length site specific work choreographed by Artistic Director Cheryl Chaddick.

Performances take place at Danzhaus, a converted warehouse here on the hill. The performance will occur throughout the space, taking advantage of the unique malleability of the venue to create a live action gallery with a carnival-like atmosphere.

Company Chaddick will perform "Landslide" Friday, May 5 through Saturday, May 20 at Danzhaus, 1275 Connecticut Street (at Cesar Chavez Street). Performances are twice nightly at 8 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays. General admission is \$20, for reservations call 415-435-7569. For more information visit www.companychaddick.org.

The library's annual art exhibit – this is the 52nd year! – opened on April 1 and drew the usual large crowd of people, mostly from the neighborhood, as well as those who live close by and who always turn out for this event.

Entertainment was provided by local musicians, and refreshments came to the librarian from many of the local businesses and friends.

Below is a list of the 81 participating artists, by category:

MIXED MEDIA:

Margo Bors, Craig Caldwell, Marguerite Carpenter Cobb, Mark Gerrys, Michelle Gonzales, Tina K, Nancy Niederhauser, Nancy Niederhauser, Jan Padover, and William Wareham

OIL:

Suzy Barnard, Deborah Baron, Kevin Bean, Brenr Bushnell, Sofia Carmi, Dorothy Fullerton, Steve Parun, Camila Perz-Goddard, Dan Underhill, Robert Winde, and Mianna Woods

PHOTO:

Sophia Antipas, Donna Asturias, Amy Carr, Rebecca Ford, Brenr Hannon, Ken Hjelle, Dorothy Markunas, Kate Parun, Steve Parapoff, Ted Pushinsky, Lisa Ryers, Greta Schnetzler, Manu Schnetzler, Susan Turtle, Onyx Williams, and Ying Ying Wu

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ANNUAL LIBRARY ART SHOW



Beach Front Property for Potrero Hill Residents

(Continued from page 1)

Rock Restaurant and Bay View Boat Club would be under water. The Bay would seep as far as Highway 280 between 22nd and 25th streets, and inundate portions of Third Street, where developers are vying to build more office towers and apartments (see <<http://flood.firetree.net>> to view a map illustrating this possibility).

Though some scientists say 20 feet reflects the outer limits, few are disputing that sea levels are indeed rising. More conservative estimates suggest that seas will rise by about three feet over 100 years; but even that increase will result in coastal flooding. Higher seas would cause greater wave action during storms, and even with a modest rise, the so-called "100-year storms" could happen as frequently as every 10 years, according to the Department of the Environment's San Francisco Climate Action Plan.

Yet, San Francisco planners and Potrero Hill residents say no one is considering the effects of global climate change and rising sea levels as they plan future developments. Mission Bay buildings are sprouting fast, and more develop-

ment is planned along the Third Street corridor that could be hard hit by future floods. "It's a surprise to me to hear it might flood the neighborhood," says Carpinelli, the corresponding secretary for the Dogpatch Neighborhood Association. "Nobody ever talks about rising sea levels at the planning meetings. They're more interested in greening and transportation and buildings. Sea level is something nobody's planning for."

Amit Ghosh, director of long-term planning for San Francisco's Planning Department, acknowledged that future sea levels aren't a part of the usual environmental impact studies that are required when buildings go up. "You're telling me that the areas could flood in the future and maybe that's something we need to look at," Ghosh said. "It's interesting and important but right now as far as I know it's not something we look at for planning."

While the media is filled with studies showing mounting evidence of global climate change, most Potrero Hill residents haven't thought about how the slow-moving phenomenon might impact their own neighborhood. "Most of us in Potrero



Janet Carpinelli, posing with cat, demonstrates her plan of action in case of global warming turns her property into a floating oasis. Photo by Joe Boss.

Boosters live on top of Potrero Hill," said Piotr Pawlikowski of the Potrero Boosters Association. "We wouldn't be flooded up here. Still, we're concerned about the baylands below us. Sea level and flooding? It's never been talked about. It should be a part of the planning process and somebody should be signaling us about it."

San Francisco has one of the oldest sea level monitors in the world, located at Fort Point. Historically it's shown that sea levels in the Bay haven't risen by the global average of four to six inches over the past 100 years. But during the last 20 years, the rate of increase in San Francisco Bay's

water level has doubled (from about .003 feet per year to .0072 feet per year), according to Jeffrey Blanchfield, chief planner for the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC). In light of new data showing polar ice melting and accelerated impacts of global warming, he said, BCDC will begin a new study this summer to see whether the seas are rising even faster in San Francisco. "Twenty years ago, it was still a theory that climate change is happening, but now there is such a strong consensus in the scientific community that it's really happening," Blanchfield said. "The pilings are keeping



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buildings up by the waterfront, but in San Francisco Bay, the land is also subsiding so we have an even bigger problem."

Many observers believe that people are unlikely to plan for a disaster that's predicted to happen so far into the future. "People don't want to think about what might happen. They're more concerned about today," says Judy West, a Potrero resident and geologist who's involved in a project to build a bike trail crossing the neighborhood. "That's not good though.

Climate change is something we need to think about now. They should be looking at this stuff and they're not," West says. As a result of spring rains, she's already seen some flooding occurring near her home, on the edge of a marshy area along Alabama Street. She worries whether a backup of floodwater into the City's sewage system could cause raw sewage to dump into the Bay.

Peter Gleick, president of the Pacific Institute, which conducted the San Francisco Bay sea level study 16 years ago, warns against complacency. Even though predictions target sea levels a century away, the incremental rise will cause plenty of damage in the meantime, well before reaching the 100-year mark. "You'll see heavier storms and rougher wave action reaching shore," he said, adding that the wilder weather is more

likely to smash levees and sea walls, as occurred during Hurricane Katrina. "Unless we start now making changes, it will be too late."

The Institute's study, published in 1990 and later updated, suggests avoiding development along coastal areas, including San Francisco's central waterfront. "I'd say that building on landfill at Mission Bay is something I'd be quite concerned about doing," Gleick said. But he also says the real solution, besides fleeing

coastal areas, is to immediately curb greenhouse gas emissions. "There's no doubt in my mind nor should there be any doubt in anyone's mind that human activity is causing this."

As some people wondered if the non-stop Spring rains were a result of global climate change, Carpinelli contemplated her speedboat full of

flowers. "I'd have to dump out the flowers, and then I'm not sure the boat would be seaworthy," she said. "I also have a sailboat docked at South Beach." As the rain pounded in the background, she recalled seeing water washing up during storms near the Embarcadero, where police set up railings to protect pedestrians. "I guess the flooding, it's already started," she said quietly. "Is it global warming? I don't know. All I know is, the water was as high as I'd ever seen it."

Sea level and flooding? It's never been talked about. It should be a part of the planning process and somebody should be signaling us about it.



GETTING INVOLVED

Dogpatch Neighborhood Association usually meets the second Tuesday of each even-numbered month at 7 p.m., at 950 Tennessee Street. Next meeting: Tuesday June 13.

PHAMB (Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses) meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th Streets. Visit www.potrerohill.biz. Next meeting: May 9.

PHPA (Potrero Hill Parents' Association) meets on the first Friday of the month in the playground behind the Potrero Hill Recreation Center at Madera and Arkansas streets at 12 noon. Next two meetings: May 5 and June 2.

Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (social time starting at 6:30 p.m.) in the wheelchair-accessible Game Room of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street. For more information visit www.potreroboosters.org or call President Tony Kelly at 341-8040 or e-mail him at president@potreroboosters.org. Next meeting: May 30.

Potrero Hill Garden Club usually meets the last Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. for a potluck lunch in a local home or garden. Informal discussion will be held on a variety of subjects relating to organic, edible, or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's particular mini-climate. Call 648-6740 for details. Next meeting: May 28.

ROSES (Residents of the Southeast Sector) meets the first Thursday of each month with members of the S.F. Police Dept. to discuss issues of public concern. The Forum takes place at 7 p.m. in the community facility downstairs at 1800 Oakdale at Phelps. Refreshments served after the meeting. Next two meetings: May 4 and June 1.

Starr King Openspace Board of Directors meets the third Tuesday of each odd-numbered month at 7 p.m., Potrero Branch Library, 1616 20th Street. Next meeting: May 16. Volunteer for the Park work days continue every month on the third Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Next work day: May 20 at the park, Carolina Street, south of 23rd. Mail: Starr King Park, P.O. Box 880293, S.F., CA 94188-0293. Call 810-4900 for more information.

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Spring Showers

Continued from page 1

similar problems. "At a certain point you've got things like Bobcats flipping over in the mud, and that makes it dangerous," said landscape architect Johan Kahlstrom, of Avant Gardener in the Mission. Kahlstrom hasn't been able to complete existing jobs and has experienced a decline in new contracts. "Maybe people are afraid that if they put something in now it'll get washed away," he speculated.

Even inside work has slowed down. "We've definitely seen a drop in business," says Roger Hilyard, owner of Farley's Café in Potrero Hill. "Fewer people come out for coffee during the storms, and those who do linger for a longer time."

March saw 8.74 inches of rain in San Francisco. According to Jim Ashby of the Climate Center, it was the second highest – by less than a half an inch -- March rainfall in a quarter-century. In terms of the total number of rainy days, however, March 2006 takes home the prize. According to the National Weather Service, 26 out of 31 days saw some degree of rain, compared with the 93-year average of 10 out of 31. As this article

was being written in April the rain continued, with more than 4 inches by the middle of the month.

For tree trimmers and roofers, bad weather can often mean windfalls – both literally and figuratively – but this year is something else entirely. Martin Kutches, of Kutches Tree Company in the Excelsior, said that for him storms usually mean profit. His company has

picked up some business from fallen branches and storm-damaged trees, but that's been more than offset by reduced demand for other services, such as pesticide spraying, which have been put on hold. Kutches says his business is down by as much as a fifth.

Kim Chung, owner of CC Roofing in the Sunset, said that she plans on one month of nonstop rainy weather, but this year it's been more than two. "Wait for sunny days, that's all you can do," she said. CC Roofing usually has four to five employees and tries to maintain a long-term relationship with them. Although Chung's workers also have to wait for the weather to clear up, Chung doesn't

worry about losing them. "They can't work for anybody else in this business now either," she said. Steve Tucker, business agent for the 400-member Roofers and Waterproofers Union, confirmed that most employers are able to keep their long-term workforce. "You don't have to let people go if you're not paying them," he said. During bad weather periods

some roofers find work in other industries while others claim unemployment insurance. "The state allows construction workers unemployment if it's a matter of Mother Nature,"

said Tucker. However he added that it takes at least a week for an applicant to see any money. "Most don't bother and just ride it out," he said. "Guys understand that you're not going to be working part of the year."

You won't catch Steve, who manages Tower Car Wash and Detailing on Mission Street, acting surprised about the slow-down in business. He's had to suspend operations for days at a time and has modified his employees' schedules accordingly. Some workers

haven't been heard from as a result of the reduced hours. "But you have to recognize that it comes with the territory," he said. "I mean this is San Francisco."

Kahlstrom, who specializes in drought-resistant plants, believes the wet weather is an aberration. "What we're probably going to see is actually more dryness in the summers and less predictability generally," he says.

For farmers, such unpredictability can be devastating. At the Heart of the City Farmers Market on UN Plaza, Glenn Tanimoto worked in the rain, packing his many remaining boxes of kiwis onto a truck. "Farming profits are so marginal, that even a 10% crop loss hurts," he said. He doesn't yet know what the impact on his tree crops will be, but he's sure that this year's yields will be lower. The rain also hurts demand for his products, as fewer people show up at the outdoor farmers markets that account for most of his business. "I'm just coming in from Gridley, though," Tanimoto said. He pointed across the plaza to a family loading up crates of unsold Chinese broccoli. "Those people have to go even further. What with fuel costs, I bet they lost money coming out here today. It's just really hard for people to do that."

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come out for coffee
during the storms,
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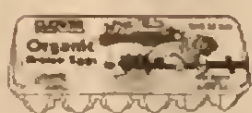


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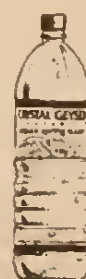
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Hospice volunteers provide assistance with non-medical activities as well as support and companionship to terminally ill individuals and their families. Adults from diverse backgrounds and multilingual persons are especially encouraged to participate. For information about the May 5-May 17 training call Hospice By The Bay at 415-626-5900.

SF Jewish Film Festival and JCCSF Present “Cinema on the Couch: Freud’s Influence on Film.”

In conjunction with the JCCSF’s FreudFest (commemorating the 150th birthday of the inventor of psychoanalysis) the SF Jewish Film Festival presents “Cinema on the Couch,” films that spotlight Freud’s direct influence on cinematic

images, characters, storylines and motives. Selections are screened May 1, May 8, and May 9 at the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco (JCCSF), 3200 California Street. All screenings are free of charge, reservations for seats are necessary. For reservations, call 415-292-1233.

Knit Happens! Teen Knitting Club

If you’re between 12 and 18, and want to learn how to knit or just hang out and knit with other teens, join us! The Library can provide needles and yarn to practice on, or bring your own yarn and needles to start your own unique project. Saturday, May 27 from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. at the Main Library, 100 Larkin Street (at Grove Street) Second Floor, Fisher Children’s Center.

Only The Dead Can Kill

Ex-offenders from the San Francisco

County jail and acclaimed author Margo Perin will read from a newly published collection of autobiographical stories and poems from both sides of the criminal fence. Special guests include Ruth Morgan of Community Works, Sheriff Mike Hennessey, and author Bo Lozoff. This Margo Perin/Community Works collaboration is funded by the Creative Work Fund. Saturday, May 6 from 2 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Main Library, 100 Larkin Street (at Grove Street) Lower Level, Koret Auditorium.

African American Writers Publishing Forum

Come learn how to turn your thoughts into a novel with the California Writers Collective as they share tips of the writing trade. Free workshops and book signing with authors Curtis Alcott and Paula Edwards. Saturday, May 6 from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. at the Main Library, 100 Larkin Street (at Grove Street), Lower Level, Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room.

Breast Cancer And The Environment

This forum features “Toxic Bust,” a documentary film by award-winning producer Megan Siler, exploring the relationship between cancer

and chemical exposures in the Bay Area, Silicon Valley, and Cape Cod. The film will be followed with a panel featuring Jeanne Rizzo, RN, Executive Director of the Breast Cancer Fund; Nancy Evans, Health Science Consultant; and Karen Pierce, Bayview Hunters Point Advocates. The panel will answer audience questions on the connections between chemicals and breast cancer. Tuesday, May 30 from 4:00 p.m. – 7:45 p.m. at the Main Library, 100 Larkin Street (at Grove Street) Lower Level, Koret Auditorium and Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room.

Kundirana

Filipino goodwill ambassadors and teen singing sensations perform in celebration of the San Francisco Public Library’s book redistribution program and the SFPL’s special relationship with the University of St. La Salle in Bacolod City, Philippines. Tuesday, May 23 from 10:30 – 11:30 at the Main Library, 100 Larkin Street (at Grove Street), Lower Level, Koret Auditorium.

Legal Advice And Referral Clinic

For problems that may require an attorney. Sign-up Saturday, May 13 between 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. to receive a free private consultation

Free History Tour Dogpatch and Potrero Point

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Children's Book Readings at Iaconi Books

Shiraz Bhabha, illustrator and local artist, reads from her first children's book "Closet Ghosts" (Author: Uma Krishnaswami, Children's Book Press \$16.95) and teaches children how to make their very own Ghost Closets on Saturday, May 6 from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Best for children 5 and up, but all are welcome.

Marsha Diane Arnold, award-winning author of several children's books, reads from her latest book "Hugs on the Wind" (Harry N. Abrams \$15.95) and will read some of her other works as well on Saturday, May 20th from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

All events are free of charge at Iaconi Books, 970 Tennessee Street (at 20th Street).

Dogpatch Neighborhood Association Meeting

Dogpatch Neighborhood Association (DNA) meeting to discuss the new lawn being laid at Esprit Park and form a community agreement on how best to care for it. The DNA wishes to ensure a clean, safe space for people, kids, and dogs. The meeting will be held Tuesday, May 9 from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. at the Watermark Press building, 950 Tennessee Street (at 20th Street—enter off the P-Lot to the north of the building, follow signs for DNA).

This is a people only meeting, please no dogs.

Conned: How Millions Went to Prison, Lost the Vote, and Helped Send George W. Bush to the White House

Modern Times Bookstore hosts award-winning journalist Sasha Abramsky for a discussion about the more than four million Americans who have lost the right to vote via felony disenfranchisement laws. Abramsky details disenfranchised America by chronicling the revival of the antidemocratic laws that came of age in the post-Civil War segregationist South. Wednesday, May 31 at 7:30 p.m., Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia Street, 415-282-9246.

Blood Drive at St. Gregory's

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BATS Improve Improvisational Theatre Summer School

BATS Improv offers an annual summer curriculum to youths aged 11-17 at its Fort Mason Center Bayfront Theater. 2006 curriculum includes Improvisational Theatre classes for two age groups (11-13 and 14-17). Programs take place during the month of July. Interested families should call 415-474-6676 or visit www.improv.org for more information about schedules, curriculum, and pricing.

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What You Can Do to Combat Global Warming

By R.A. Kay

Special to the Neighborhood Newswire

As politicians argue over what to do about global climate change, tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane and other heat-trapping gases are spewed into the air daily. Your household alone likely produces 22 tons of greenhouse gases annually, in the form of emissions from your car or the power plants necessary to heat your home, refrigerate your food or wash your clothes. But there are steps individuals and businesses can take to reduce their contribution to emerging temperature changes.

DRIVE BETTER

- Keep your car tuned-up and tires inflated to ensure the best gasoline mileage.
- Combine your errands to reduce your number of trips; car emissions are highest when you first start your engine.
- Replace your low miles per gallon vehicle with a hybrid or a fuel efficient car. Vehicles that get at least 32 mpg can reduce emissions by 5,200 pounds a year compared to a gas guzzler.
- Use public transit or carpool.
- Ride a bike or walk.
- Telecommute to work; leaving your car at home just two days a week can reduce your emissions by 1,590 pounds a year
- Consider moving walking distance from work, or vice versa.

REDUCE YOUR ENERGY USE

- Turn-off appliances when you're not using them, including plugging devices into power strips and shutting them off to reduce "plug leaks;" and installing indoor and outdoor motion sensors so lights don't stay on when they're not needed.
- Reduce your energy use by more than a third by using Energy Star-rated

ed refrigerators, washers, dishwashers, heating equipment, electronics, televisions and audio systems.

- Insulate your home and tune-up your furnace.
- Install low flow shower heads and faucets to use less hot water.
- Insulate your water heater and pipes to reduce heat loss. Set your heater to 120 degrees, and turn it even lower when you're on vacation.
- Insulation and reduced hot water consumption can save 2,480 pounds of emissions a year.
- Do more of your laundry in cold water; with the right detergent you won't notice the difference.
- Install solar panels to reduce natural gas consumption; tinted windows to lower the need for air conditioning; and fluorescent lights, which can cut electricity consumption by up to two-thirds.
- Use highly reflective roof coverings to reflect sunlight and reduce cooling needs.
- Plant trees, which shade streets and buildings, reducing the need for cooling on hot days, and breathe in CO₂, acting as a "carbon sink."

MAKE YOURS A GREEN BUSINESS

- Regularly service heating and cooling equipment.

- Install fluorescent lights and motion detectors. Turn-off outdoor lighting when it's not needed.
- Use Energy Star-rated equipment, such as copiers, fax machines, computers, scanners, exit signs, heating and cooling products, vending machines and refrigerators.
- Enroll in a "demand-response" program that pays you to shift the timing of your electricity use. See for example, <http://www.sfpower.org/pdf/sfpower_business_flyer.pdf>. By lowering your energy use when demand is highest you'll take pressure off hard-working power plants, thereby reducing emissions.
- Provide incentives for employees to use public transit, carpool or telecommute.

- Provide bicycle racks and showers.
- Provide access to videoconferencing to reduce commutes.
- Use fuel efficient cars and/or convert your vehicle fleet to run on alternative fuels, such as compressed gas, ethanol, methanol, biodeisel, hydrogen or electricity.
- Plant trees to suck-in CO₂ and provide shade to your building and street.

Sources: Bay Area Air Quality Management District, San Francisco Community Power, San Francisco Department of the Environment, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



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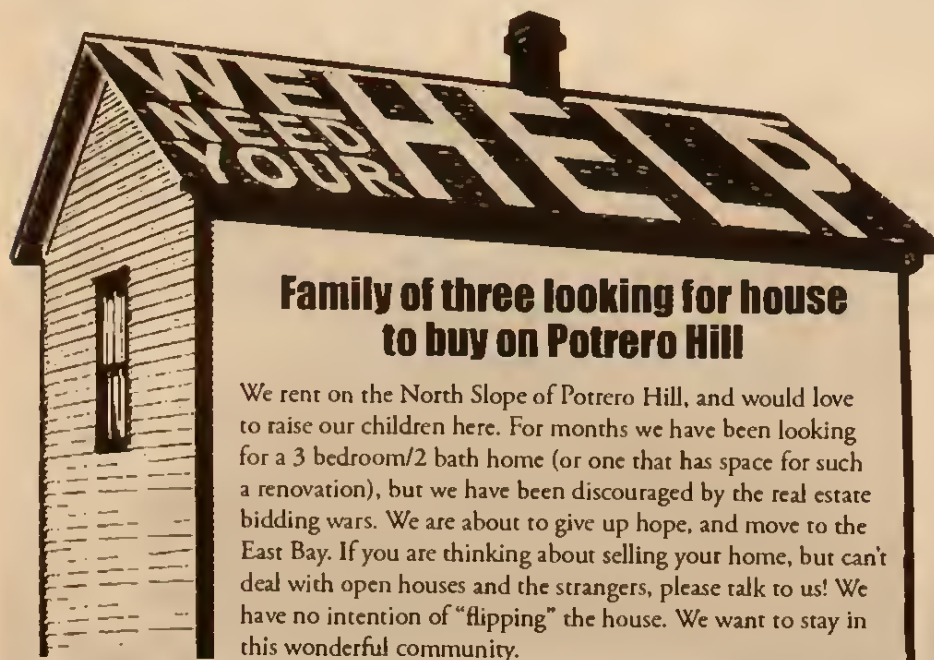
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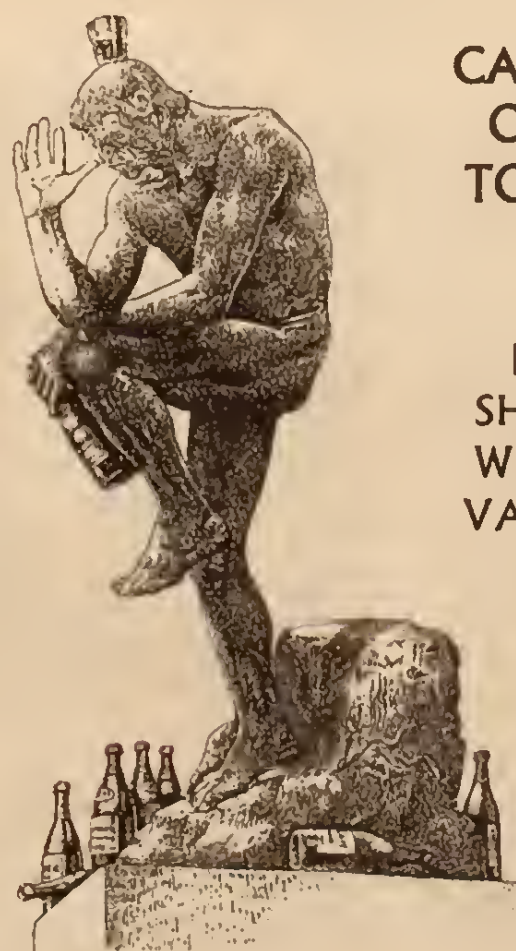
Family of three looking for house to buy on Potrero Hill

We rent on the North Slope of Potrero Hill, and would love to raise our children here. For months we have been looking for a 3 bedroom/2 bath home (or one that has space for such a renovation), but we have been discouraged by the real estate bidding wars. We are about to give up hope, and move to the East Bay. If you are thinking about selling your home, but can't deal with open houses and the strangers, please talk to us! We have no intention of "flipping" the house. We want to stay in this wonderful community.

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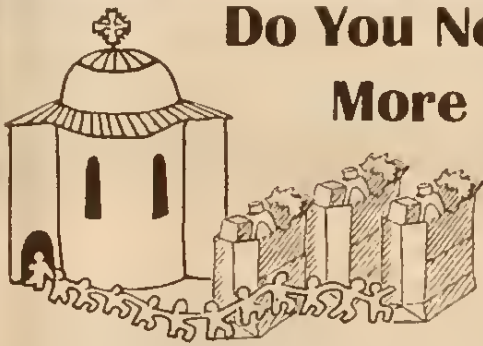


Happy Birthday . . .

- Joyce Armstrong
Joanne Bagan
Joseph Baldwin
Maureen Barclift
Mary Bewick
Yogi Berra (1925)
Bob Dylan
Amerlia "Hot Panrs" Bloomer (1818)
So Mai Brown
Narhan and Thomas Burns
Helen Changras
Cinco de Mayo (1862)
Miles Davis (1926)
Pele de Lappe
Luca DeSerpos
Clara Dingle
Django Dirks
Rachel Dorr
Sharen Dykeman
Ear What You Want Day (5/11)
Chuck Elkind
Eritrea Independence Day (5/25/1844)
Perer Firrh
Patsy Faulkner-Jonik
Wally Fernance
FDR's New Deal Establishes WPA (1935)
Minnie Fotter
Dave Fujimoto
Freedom Riders bus trips across deep
South begin (1961)
- Golden Gate Bridge (1937)
Ruth Harer
Ho Chi Minh (1890)
Betty Kelly,
Jan, Stan & Jason Kurtz
Fred Kuh
Kent Stare Srudents die in anri-war
protesr (1970)
Martin Lurher King, Jr., "I Have a Dream"
speech (1963)
Gerard Leong
Beverly Mack
Marcel Mauss
May Day
Harvey Milk (1930)
Willie Mays
Memorial Day (5/29)
Mom's Day (5/14)
Mohammad Ali refuses induction into
U.S. Army (1967)
No Socks Day (5/8)
Richard "Tricky Dick" Nixon impeachment
hearings (1974)
Courtney Passin-Burbank
Natalie Passen
Judy Pererson
Evan Rowe
Sugar Ray Robinson 1921)
Get Caught Reading Month
Audrey Solano
Pere Seeger
Judy Srone
Tara Sullivan
Rabindranath Tagore (1861)
World Press Freedom Day (5/3)
V.E. Day (1945)
Fats Waller (1904)
David Yorke....
and BELATED April birthday greetings
to Sue & Betty Elkind--:)

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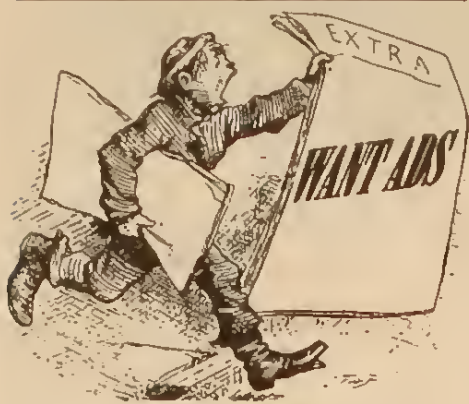
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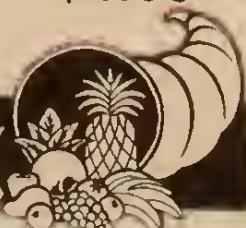


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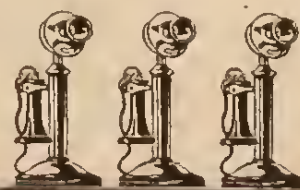
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